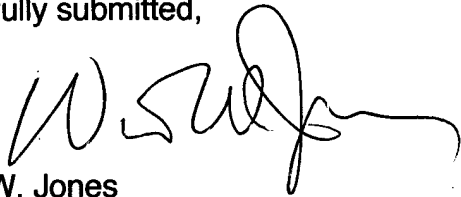


## REMARKS

The aforesaid statement supplies the evidence needed to establish common ownership as set forth in MPEP §706.02(I)(2). This response thus effectively removes the Grasso et al reference as prior art, and renders the rejections of Claims 5-7, 9-11 and 14-16 moot. Early notice of the allowability of Claims 5-7, 9-11 and 14-16 is courteously requested. We will address the rejections of Claims 3, 4, 8, 12, 13 and 17 at a later date.

It is respectfully submitted that this response places this application in better form for appeal since it reduces the number of issues to be decided on appeal.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date 11-1-03